

Applicant : Rob K. Corell et al.
Serial No. : 09/436,044
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Attorney's Docket No.: 07844-350001 / P324

SUMMARY OF EXAMINER INTERVIEW OF MAY 18, 2004

The applicant thanks the examiners for the courtesy of a telephonic interview on May 18, 2004.

The first point of discussion was the meaning of a "fixed position" of a word on a page, as presented in the claims. The applicant stated that words having fixed positions on a page are like the words in a scanned document, which necessarily have a fixed (unchangeable) position on a physical page. The examiner recommended that the applicant change the wording of the claims to make it clear that the positions of the words are fixed *relative to* a page. The applicant has made the suggested amendment.

The second point of discussion concerned the step of deriving a style. The applicant pointed out that claim 1 requires that at least one element be assigned to two or more groups of words, and that an element style be derived for the element from the two or more groups of words to which the element is assigned. Fein teaches that if a group of words is encountered that requires a new style to be derived, the new style is derived based only on that single group of words. Fein may later assign the style to other groups of words, but the style is only derived based on a single group of words.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-15, 18-25, and 30-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,088,711 ("Fein"). The applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 4, 21, 22, and 24, with support for the amendments being located at least on page 2, lines 11-13; page 5, lines 22-25; page 6, lines 13-15; and page 7, lines 3-5. No new matter has been added. The applicant has also submitted an amended abstract that better tracks the language of the pending claims. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following arguments, the applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

1. Response to Rejections under Section 103

Claims 1-15, 18-25, and 30-34 were rejected as unpatentable over Fein. The applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As amended, claim 1 requires a document that is "formatted on one or more pages," with words each "having a fixed position relative to one of the one or more pages." In Fein, words do not have a fixed position relative to a page. [1:9-13; 4:44-67]

Claim 1 also requires "assigning an element . . . to each of two or more groups . . . of words" and "deriving an element style for the assigned element," where the style (be it a character style or a layout style) is derived from the font or text properties in or of the two or more groups of words to which the element is assigned. Fein does not derive a style based on two or more groups of words. [4:44-67; 12:64-13:14; 9:54-10:10] In addition, claim 1 requires that the style be derived "after the element is assigned to each of two or more groups of words." This feature is not found in Fein, where each style exists as soon as an element is assigned to a particular part of the text. [4:44-67; 12:64-13:14; 9:54-10:10] For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is allowable over Fein.

Claim 5 is allowable for at least the following additional reason. Claim 5 recites comparing group appearances of all groups of words to which an assigned element is assigned, creating one or more alternate elements if the differences among the group appearances exceed a predefined threshold, and assigning each group of words to the original assigned element or an alternate element. Thus, if the threshold is exceeded, at least one alternate element is created, for

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which an element style will be derived. These features are neither taught nor suggested by Fein. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully asserts that claim 5 is allowable over Fein.

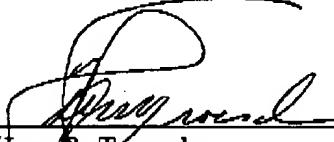
Claims 2-4, 6-15, and 18-20 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and are allowable for at least that reason.

Claim 21 is a computer program product claim that includes limitations corresponding to those of claim 1. Claims 22-25 and 30-34 depend directly or indirectly from claim 21, and are allowable for at least that reason.

2. Conclusion

The applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance, and asks that all claims be allowed. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,



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